(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Inquiry into the incident revealed that inspite of the best possible medical assistance provided, the life of the said woman passenger unfortunately, could not be saved. She was reported to be a heart patient and had undergone by-pass surgery.

Proposal to upgrade Surat Airport

7710. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to upgrade the Surat airstrip into an airport capable of handling domestic flights;

(b) if so, what are the details of the project indicating also its cost and time frame for implementation; and

(c) at what stage the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The airport at Surat belongs to State Government of Gujarat and is capable of handling Dornier/AVRO type of aircraft. Airports Authority of India has no plan to upgrade this airport.

Irappropriate accounting by Air India

7711. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Air India's 1992-93 accounts did not properly reflect the economic situation;

(b) whether it is a fact that there was inappropriate accounting in Air India in 1992-93;

(c) if so the names of the concerned auditors; and

(d) whether Government propose any inquiry into the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Accounts of Air India for the period 1992-93 reflect the true and fair view of the state of Affairs of the company. The accounts have been examined by two firms of chartered accountants namely M/s. S. B. Billimoria and Co. and M/s. N. M. Raiji and Co. as examiners. The Principal Director of Commercial Audit and ex-offiico member, Audit Board II, Bombay has certified the Accounts.

(d) No, Sir.

Profits by Air India

7712. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India declared profits of nearly 333 crores in 1992-93;

(b) whether these pofirts reflected the real situation;

(c) whether it is a fact that Air India has shown losses of 180 crores recently; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Audit of Air India accounts

7713. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Board of Air India recently at a meeting demanded a thorough audit of the accounts of Air Inda for the period 1991-92 and 1992-93;

(b) whether a massive fraud in the system of accounts was detected;

(c) whether issue will be enquired into by the CBI; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir. The minutes of the meeting do not contain any record of such discussion.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

False profit shown by Air India

7714. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: (a) whether Government collaborated with Air India in 1992-93 to show false profits;

(b) whether any representative of Government was present on the Board of Air India in 1992-93; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the representative of the Ministry for inefficient functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Steep decline in Air India's profits

7715. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep decline in the profits of Air India from 1992-93 to the present financial year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government propose to enquire into this decline;

(d) the steps proposed to halt this decline; and

(e) whether Air India has any re sons for the prompt state of affairs

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVI TION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULA NABI AZAD): (a), (b) and (e) Y Sir. The decline in profitability 1993-94 and 1994-95 as compared 1992-93 is due to:—

(i) impact of depreciation ar interest of the B 747-400 aircra acquired during 1993-94.

(ii) decline in yields by arou 10 per cent and decline in load fa tor from 64.6 per cent in 1992-93 59.6 per cent in 1993-94; and

(iii) impact of cancellation of s veral flights in the wake of plag outbreak.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Air India is taking steps to fa the competition and to improve product, image ad on-time perfor ance to attract more passengers ar increase the revenue; the number services will also be increased depen ing upon additional entitlements ar traffic demand.

Formation of Aviation Securjty Fo

7716. SHRI N. THANGARAJ PA DIAN : Will the Minister of CIV AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleas to state

(a) whether it is a fact that Aviati Security Force was to be formed per Anti-Hijacking Act, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the details the of; and

(c) by when it will start functic ing?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVI TON AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULA NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c). Anti-Hija ing Act, 1982 as amended in 1994, dc not envisage setting up of Aviati